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Proposed Remarks
for
R. James Woolsey
Director of Central Intelligence
At the
Presentation of The Intelligence Star
to
Nicholas Starr
9 November 1993; 3:00 p.m.



I am pleased to welcome each of you to this afternoon's ceremony to award the Intelligence Star to Nick Starr. This award is being presented to him in recognition of his actions on that fateful day last January when the Central Intelligence Agency was struck by violence on its very doorstep.

In these times of increasing international and domestic violence, it is hard sometimes to fathom the terrible destruction that can result in the space of just minutes. And yet it is precisely the horror of violence that makes a simple act of selfless courage so remarkable. Let me review for you Nick Starr's act of courage.

On 25 January 1993 a few minutes before 8:00 a.m., a man we believe to be Mir Aymal Kanzi opened fire with a semiautomatic rifle on CIA employees waiting in their vehicles at the Route 123 traffic light to turn left into the Headquarters compound. At this time of day, many CIA employees are either already at work or on their way, and Nick was one of them.

Nick was in the habit of stopping in the mornings to have a cup of coffee while he expertly dispatched the "Washington Post" crossword puzzle. That Monday morning was no different, except that the crossword puzzle was a little more difficult than usual, delaying his arrival at Headquarters by a few minutes. (I'm told, by the way, that he is considering raising this issue with "Post" management!)

And so it was that Nick came to be in the lead car in one of the two left-turn lanes on Route 123 -- just ten minutes before eight on a Monday morning that had otherwise promised to be like most other mornings.

Then the gunman emerged from a car several vehicles behind Nick. He proceeded to walk toward the light between the two left-turn lanes, shooting into cars as he progressed. Nick heard the popping sounds made by the gunman's semiautomatic rifle. As he instinctively turned toward his left to identify the sounds, he was himself shot in the left shoulder at nearly point-blank range. Nick later recalled that all he could think was, "The Redcoats are coming!" He threw his car into gear and accelerated against oncoming traffic toward the main gate. The gunman then shot Nick a second time in the same shoulder, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Amazingly, Nick was able to maneuver his speeding car all the way to the gate. There he attempted to raise the alert with the Security Protective Officers on duty [redacted]

[redacted] The SPOs spun into action. [redacted]

[redacted]

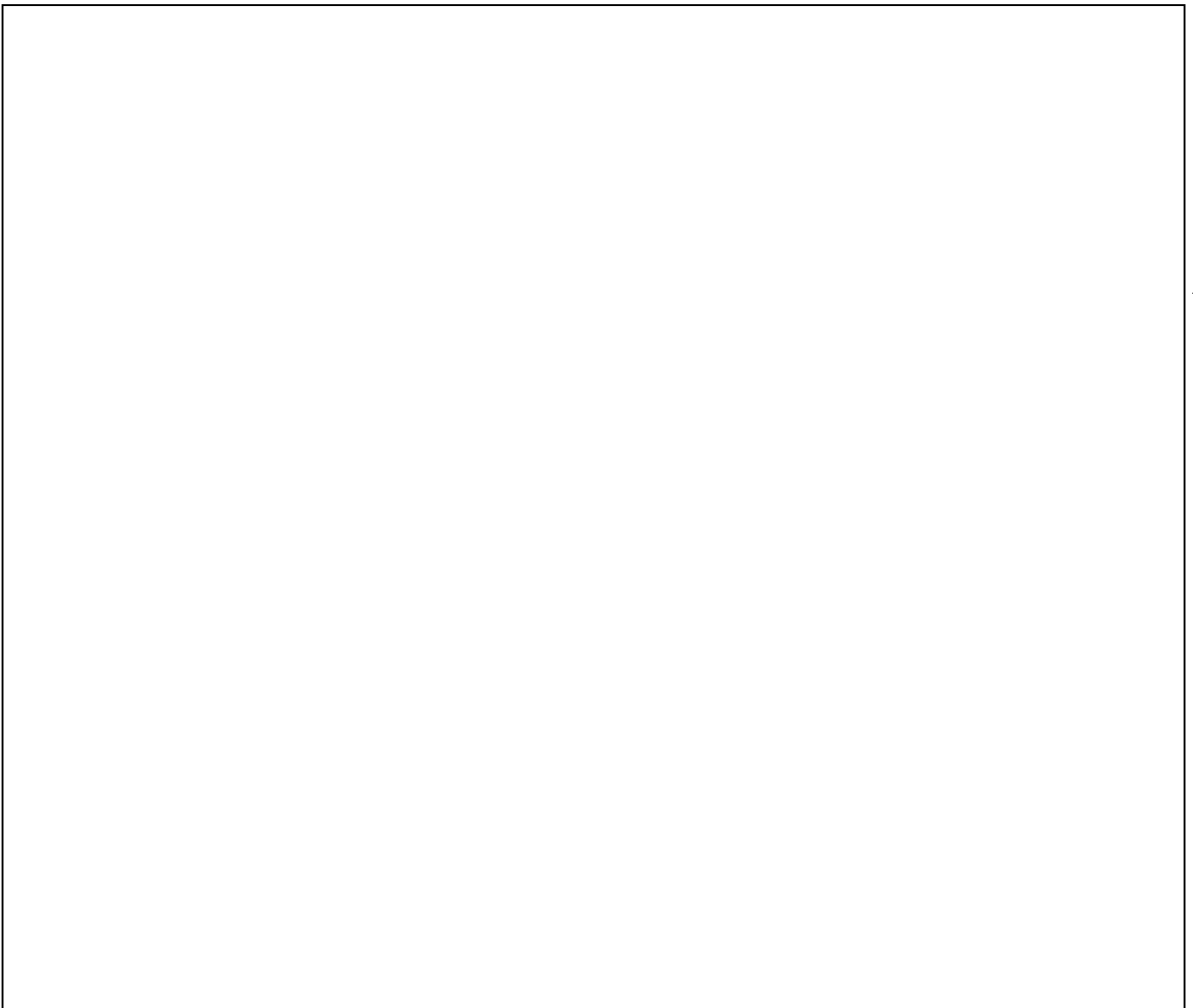
[redacted] when the helicopter rescue crew arrived. By chance, the helicopter was already in the air when notified of the emergency. [redacted]

[redacted]

Nick's efforts to reach the main gate and warn of the attack occurred while he was himself still under fire. His quick action in this

dangerous situation helped to prevent further bloodshed by hastening the end of the shooting and speeding the dispatch of rescue personnel to the scene. Although the toll exacted by the gunman that day was terrible, it could have been much, much worse.

Who is Nick Starr?



During the course of his distinguished career, Nick has been the recipient of many awards, commendations, letters of appreciation, and so on. Today, however, Nick is receiving the Intelligence Star, which is an award reserved exclusively for colleagues who display unusual courage under hazardous conditions. This award is a small but sincere token, given in recognition of the personal courage and sense of duty displayed by Mr. Nicholas Starr on 25 January 1993.

Thank you, Nick, for your actions that day and for the ongoing sacrifices you continue to make. You are a credit to this Agency and all that it stands for, and we are proud to serve with you.

Congratulations.